

# DDC February 24 Updates

February 28, 2024

Hello Council Members, I hope February has been a good month for you all. We have been busy here at the Council and as discussed at our January meeting, I am sending along several updates as we close out the month.

- January Council Meeting Minutes can be found on our website [here](#).
- The Council Member Feedback Survey results are attached for your review. We will have time to review and discuss these at the April Council Meeting. In the meantime, if you'd like to record your thoughts when you review the results on your own, feel free to send them to us [here](#). We will bring any feedback you send into the April discussion as well.
- Informing Families Coordinators have been finalized and you can learn about our new members of that team here: [Informing Families Welcomes New Coordinators! | Informing Families](#).
- Thanks to our Council members and staff who helped with scoring Dan Thompson proposals! The scoring is almost complete and DDA plans to begin contacting the highest scoring proposals in March.
- Our co-chairs and I wanted to be sure and recognize Black History Month with you all. Please check out our Facebook page for a post with some resources from an organization called [Respectability](#). We also encourage you all to check out this video about the role of the Black Panthers in the Disability Rights Movement: [belonging.berkeley.edu](http://belonging.berkeley.edu) as well as this article about [Why Black Disabled History Matters - World Institute on Disability \(wid.org\)](http://WhyBlackDisabledHistoryMatters-WorldInstituteonDisability.wid.org). Here are a few of our thoughts on the importance of Black History Month too:

*o Like many Black Americans, I feel pride each February when our nation's schools, organizations, and communities place a special emphasis on Black history and leaders. Of course, Black history is American history and should be honored all year. And, as we honor Black history, we have the opportunity to honor ALL of Black history, including Black Disabled History. February is a time to celebrate and reflect on the creativity, imagination, and leadership of Black Disabled people throughout history. And it is a time to look for opportunities to follow the leadership and vision of Black*

Our Mission is to advocate, promote, and implement policies and practices to create pathways to meaningful, integrated, and productive lives for people with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities over the life course.



Washington State Developmental Disabilities Council  
2600 Martin Way E., Suite F | Olympia, WA 98506  
1 (800) 634-4473 | [info@ddc.wa.gov](mailto:info@ddc.wa.gov) | [www.ddc.wa.org](http://www.ddc.wa.org)

*members of our disability community, as we work toward an equitable future. As the mama of Black children with disabilities, it's important to me that they grow up knowing their power and preciousness as Black disabled people. Celebrating the contributions, creativity, and wisdom of Black disabled people helps connect our children to this powerful legacy. Adana*

*o Even though I'm not Black I have been noticing more and more people who are on disabilities are white and that's just sad because all people of mix race should be allow to have a disability and be proud of who they are. Sydney*

*o Black History Month is a time to learn, reflect and celebrate how Black folks have and continue to impact our communities. Several people have come before us and many more are helping to lead the way to elevate the experiences of Black people with disabilities. I hope these resources will offer something new to your understanding of both the history and future for our community. Brandi*

• Finally, details about our April meeting in Vancouver are being finalized. We are working with the [Heathman Lodge](#) on logistics and have a tentative Town Hall planned for Wednesday, April 24th from 6:30 to 8:00. More details to come on all of this soon.

Please reach out with questions or concerns about any of this information. We appreciate you all!

## **Brandi Monts**

Executive Director/ Pronouns: She, Her

Washington State Developmental Disabilities Council

Email: [Brandi.Monts@ddc.wa.gov](mailto:Brandi.Monts@ddc.wa.gov)

Office phone: 360.586.3558

Cell phone: 564.999.0079

Physical address: 2600 Martin Way East, Suite F, Olympia, WA 98506

Mailing address: P.O. Box 48314, Olympia, WA 98504

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